

April 28, 2004

Lincoln Public Schools Comprehensive District Master Plan

Applicant	Location	Proposal
Lincoln Public Schools	City of Lincoln	Amend the Comprehensive Plan to include the 2003 Lincoln Public Schools Comprehensive District Master Plan as an approved component of the Comprehensive Plan.
Recommendation: Approval		

Status/Description

Since the adoption of the Lincoln-Lancaster County 2025 Comprehensive Plan in May 2002, Lincoln Public Schools (LPS) has initiated a public process to develop a 10 year facility master plan. This process began in the Fall of 2002, shortly after the adoption of the new Comprehensive Plan. The new Plan was used as a basis for determining the future service area of LPS and the potential increase in enrollment due to anticipated population growth. The Comprehensive Plan itself does not include student enrollment projections, but is based on an annual 1.5% population growth and an increase in the Lincoln population of over 103,000 persons from 2000 to 2025.

According to LPS, “the proposed long-range master plan for Lincoln Public Schools facilities and schools was developed by MGT of America Inc. and was presented to the Lincoln Board of Education on Tuesday, June 3rd, 2003. The report was created after holding several public forums in the community, as well as conducting extensive research at LPS. The proposed master plan includes suggestions for building new schools and making building renovations in the coming years.”

In general, the following are some of the recommendations/ conclusions of the LPS “Comprehensive District Master Plan” that are pertinent to the Lincoln/ Lancaster County Comprehensive Plan:

- Currently, without any additional growth, there is inadequate capacity in elementary and middle schools to serve the present enrollment (many schools still have portables)
- New schools and additions to the existing facilities will be needed to keep pace with continued growth in and around the City of Lincoln”
- Four new grade K-5 elementary schools be built in the next 10 years at 500 to 525 students per school
- Two new grade K-8 schools having a capacity of 250 students in the grades 6-8

- One new grade 9 -12 high school will be needed toward the end of the 10 year period
- New additions and renovations for several existing schools are proposed to maintain the facilities and provide adequate capacity
- Replacement of Arnold Elementary School with a new grade K-8 joint elementary/middle school facility – potentially incorporating a Parks & Recreation facility and a branch library, are also under consideration
- Some attendance boundaries should be adjusted to make efficient use of existing facilities, noting “care needs to be taken in order to balance the needs to efficiently utilize facilities along with meeting the needs of students”
- Provide for additional athletic facilities, in particular a new community wide facility similar to the Seacrest Activities Complex, and
- Flexibility in implementation over the years based on continued monitoring of changes in enrollment and growth of the City

Comprehensive Plan Implications

The LPS Master Plan examines not only the need for new schools, but renovation needs of older schools during the 10 year period. During the past decade alone, LPS has seen schools in older neighborhoods remain at or over capacity and has invested substantially in improvements and additions in these older schools. The Comprehensive Plan states on page F 144:

“Lincoln Public Schools has made a substantial investment in renovating and improving existing schools throughout the Lincoln area. Between 1987 and June, 2000, LPS spent over \$64 million on improvements to 25 older elementary and middle schools (source: LPS letter, June 2000).

Numerous schools that were 50 or more years old have received new additions such as a libraries/media centers, gymnasiums, or classrooms. LPS has also been actively removing asbestos and making improvements during renovations such as updating heating and cooling systems. This commitment to maintaining older schools is critical to maintaining the vitality of the surrounding neighborhoods. Schools continue to serve as the heart of many older neighborhoods.”

The Comprehensive Plan already included the future Lincoln school sites on page F 143. There are some minor updates to this map as LPS has adjusted the locations and potential future use of a few of these potential school locations. All of the sites are within the Lincoln future service limit and serve future urban residential areas.

Conclusion

The LPS Comprehensive District Master Plan is appropriate for inclusion in the Comprehensive Plan. The 10 year plan will serve as a guide to the City and to LPS as it annually develops renovation and construction plans. The LPS Master Plan as an approved component of the Comprehensive Plan will provide direction for future actions and serve as the basis for facilities planning and improvements.

Amend the Comprehensive Plan as follows:

1. Amend the text on in the Education section, page F 143 to 144 as follows:

“The Lincoln Public Schools (LPS) has opened two new high schools; ~~under development~~ Lincoln Southwest, at South 14th Street and Pine Lake Road, ~~will open~~ in the fall of 2002, and Lincoln North Star, near North 33rd and Folkways Boulevard, ~~will open~~ in the fall of 2003.

LPS currently owns property for ~~10~~ potential school sites that were acquired to support the future development shown in the City-County 1994 Comprehensive Plan. In addition, LPS owns 3 other sites between 84th and 98th Streets in the Stevens Creek drainage basin. Staff from LPS and City departments continue to work together to identifying potential schools sites that meet the needs of the present Plan.

In May 2003 LPS completed a 10 year master plan to address the space needs for renovation and new construction of facilities within the district. The generalized location of future school sites is shown in the “Future Lincoln School Sites” figure. LPS will use the Master Plan as a guide as it annually develops renovation and construction plans. The LPS Master Plan is adopted as approved component of the Comprehensive Plan and will provide direction for future actions and serve as the basis for facilities planning and improvements....

In the past few years, LPS has faced significant financial challenges in funding the operation of existing ~~their~~ schools. As the community grows, new elementary, secondary, and high schools will be needed during the planning period. Funding for new schools will be necessary in order to avoid overcrowding existing schools. Several elementary schools built within the past ten years are already at their capacity. With current legislative limits placed upon the building and site fund, the only alternative for funding is voter approved bonds.”

2. Amend the figure “Future Lincoln School Sites” in the Education section, page F 143 as shown on the following page.

3. Amend the list of adopted subarea plans on page F 156 to include:

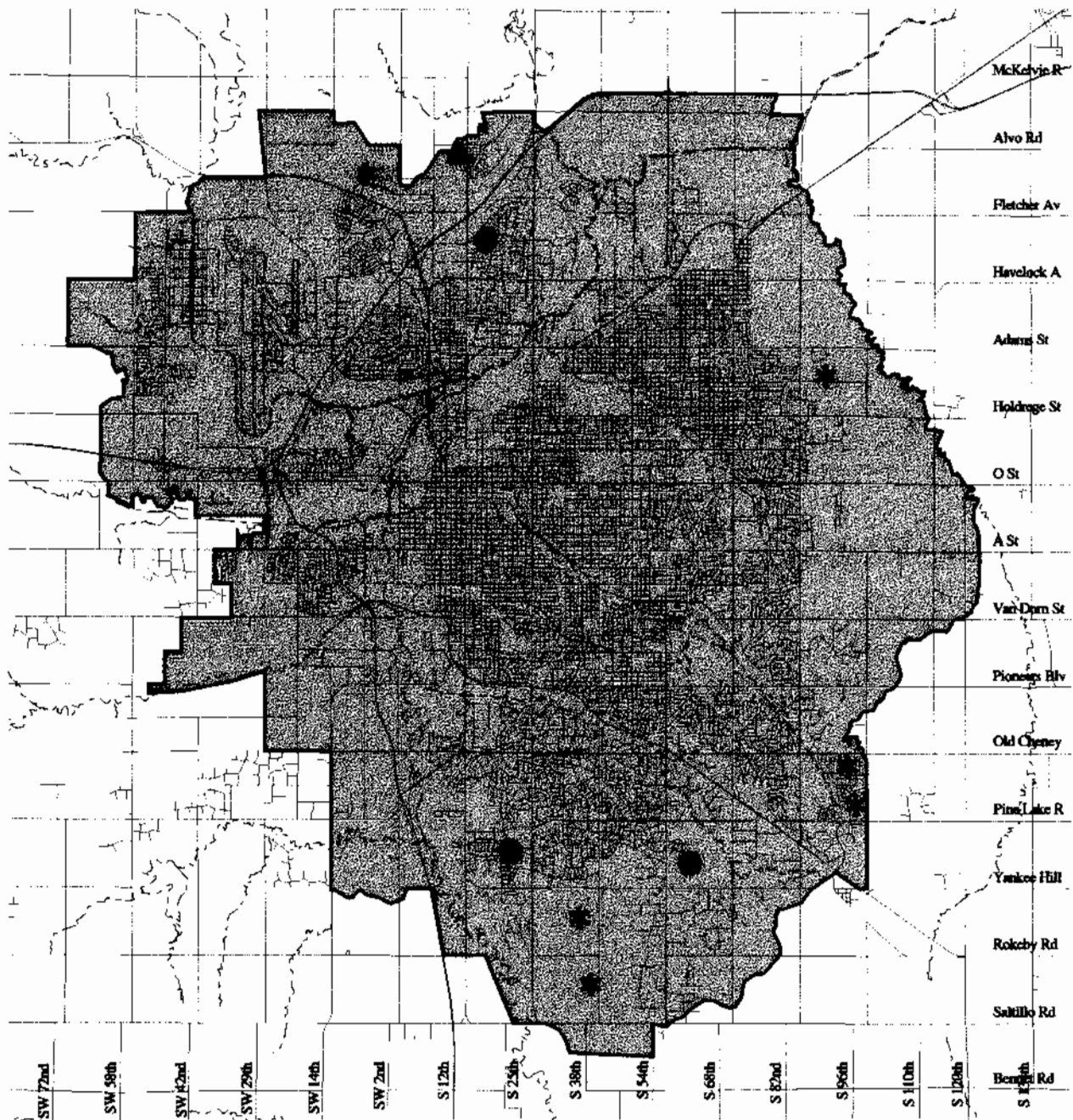
New Subarea Plans:

"Lincoln Public Schools Comprehensive District Master Plan; May 2003"

Prepared by

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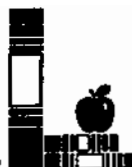


Lincoln Future School Sites

Proposed Amendment # 04003

- Future Elementary
- ▲ Future Middle
- * Future School
- Future Service Limit





Lincoln Public Schools

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April 23, 2004

Steve Henrichsen
Planning Department
555 S. 10th Street
Lincoln, NE 68508

RE: LINCOLN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENT APPLICATION

Dear Steve;

As per your request, please find accompanying this letter, 25 diskettes containing the MGT of America, Inc. Comprehensive District Master Plan Development Final Report, dated May 27th, 2003, and Executive Summary, dated June 3rd, 2003 for your review and distribution.

I have had the opportunity to read the "draft" copy of your staff report that supports Lincoln Public Schools application for amendment to the Lincoln/Lancaster County Comprehensive Plan, and I must concur with your conclusion that this plan will be an appropriate tool for the City and School District to use as a guideline for developing annual renovation and construction plans, as well as providing direction for future actions regarding facilities planning and improvements.

Lincoln Public Schools continues to support the collaborative effort that we have established with the various departments within the City of Lincoln administrative team, and we appreciate their guidance and support as we collectively continue our pursuit to make Lincoln a better place to raise a family.

Thanks again for all of your support on this application process. If you should need any additional information, or have any questions, please feel free to give me a call.

Sincerely,

Scott Wieskamp
Director of Facilities

Cc: Dennis Van Horn

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